



Volume 25

An ARCEC Monthly Publication

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*Counterpoise Editor - Sue Robins AF6LJ*

## Cal Fire Red Flag Patrol

*By Sue Robins AF6LJ*

The February meeting presentation was on the subject of Cal Fire's Red Flag Patrol. Eric Crosser, N6SUB, the Red Flag Patrol Branch Director. Gave an informative presentation of what Red Flag Patrol is, and their mission. Red Flag Patrol works the back country looking for dangerous fire situations during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, and other times when the fire danger is high. Their role is to act as a deterrent and, and reminder to be fire safe.

Red Flag Patrol is a volunteer group composed of amateur radio operators and citizens. Red Flag Patrol does not have enforcement power, their only function is one of a deterrent. Anybody interested in becoming involved you may contact Rich Beisigl at 619-444-5465 ([rbeisigl@csst.net](mailto:rbeisigl@csst.net)) or Eric Crosser at 619-579-6225 ([n6sub@arrl.net](mailto:n6sub@arrl.net))

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## THERE's a TOWER in my yard now!

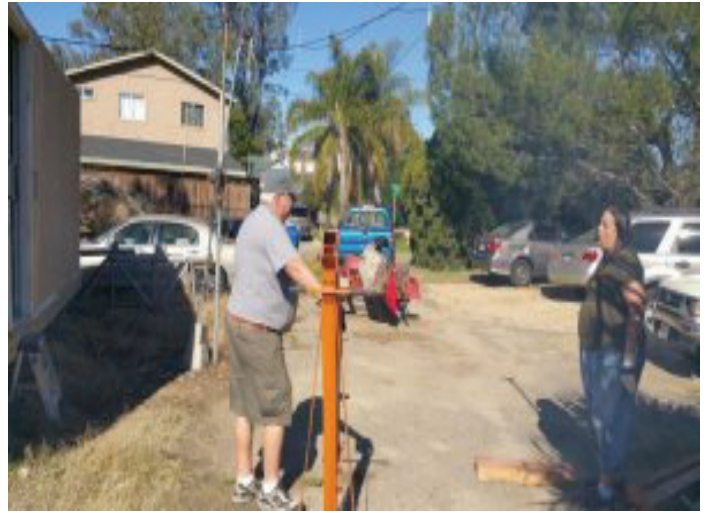
*By Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ, edited by Sue Robins AF6LJ*

Up to this point, I have relied on roof towers to work DX with, or wire antennas. Most of folks in the DX club have serious antennas up and it's difficult to compete with them in the Pileups. So they decided I needed a real tower. One of the club members became a Silent Key and his massive tower was available. The tower is a 70 ft. heavy duty tower that will hold up whatever I dare to put on it. it was located in Escondido, a good 40 miles away, and there was no way for me to go and get it. So some very helpful San Diego DX Club members went and got it for me and delivered it to the big old Crest house.

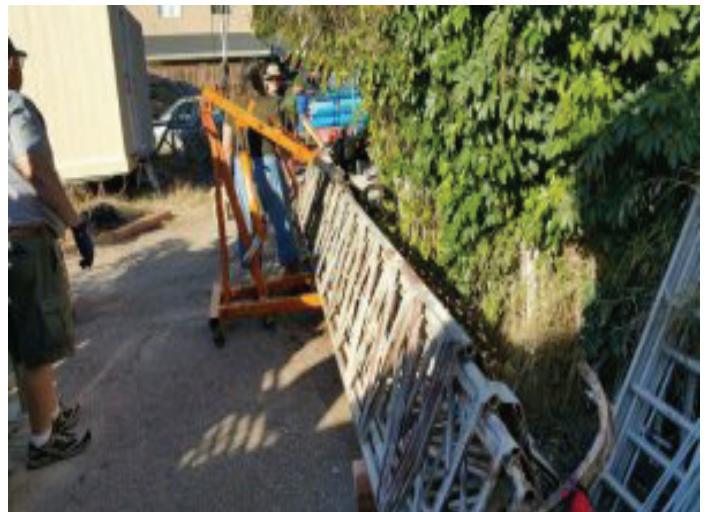
Early Saturday morning, I made preparations for their arrival. I was to supply BBQ for them when they arrived. I got out my little Football Hibanchi and set it on the portable table I have and loaded it up with Charcoal.







They were supposed to arrive at noon. you can see the ice chest filled with drinks on the tongue of the Radio Club Tower Trailer. We have lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, burgers, and all the condiments, plus onions for those who like them. Around 11:30 I started the coals, they were ready in a hurry, but as the clock ticked Noon came and went and they were a no-show, and the coals got cold. Around 1:00 PM they called up and said they would be late and at 1:30 they arrived complete with all the parts of the tower. Heading up the move was Dennis N6KI. I put the burgers on and they were ready in short order.



They got it off the trailer and into my driveway So now I need to dig a giant hole!! 4 x 4 by 8 ft deep. They wanted to have it put out by the big rock. I nixed that idea as the antenna would blast my Kilowatt signal right into the neighbors house. I want it as far away from them as possible. So I think i will put the hole right at about where the base of the tower sits now.



The tower would be moved around with the engine hoist seen in back of the above picture you can also see the North Wing of the Crest Radio Museum also. Work progressed to get it off the trailer and onto the ground Helping out was Tom N6JOJ, and Sue AF6LJ.

I have to go thru the asphalt driveway and hope there are not too many rocks in the soil. Needless to say this isn't going to be done with a shovel, at least the tower is here now, stay tuned!

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## A New Resource

Recently Mark KB6PJU and Terry K6TRY had some tree trimming done by one of the local tree trimming services. As often happens the question regarding all that wire and stuff in the air came up. It was explained they are amateur radio operators. Another question came up in their conversation, that being can their bucket truck be used for hanging wire antennas and the like? Well it turns out this company will for a reasonable cost lend the services of their bucket truck for the purpose of minor antenna work. Mark and Terry thought it would be good to pass this information along. And there you have it another very useful service made available to us amateur radio operators. There is a cost involved, however I am told it is reasonable.

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## Health and Welfare

Joe Bennett (W6VMX) is recovering from a recent eye surgery performed at the La Jolla VA hospital on January 27th. He had a Vitrectomy on his left eye and reports that it has greatly improved his vision from the preoperative condition. Previously Joe had two Cataract surgeries that had been done over a two week period several years ago, and is pleased to say that he is happy to see all of the members of the ARCEC with much greater clarity ☺.

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## Next Month's Meeting

Our March program is still being finalized. Check our website for more details. [wa6bgs.us](http://wa6bgs.us)

## Editor's Notes

The Newsletter is running late this month, I've been playing catch-up on things around here. It is sad how real world events can barge in and disrupt an otherwise quiet and semi-productive life. While I am saying that in jest real life does have a way of keeping our existence interesting.

One of the bits of news I just picked up from Facebook is that our Past President Pat Bunsold is going in for Exploratory surgery as this issue of Counterpoise is heading off for proof reading and approval by the board and others before final publishing on the web. We hope that all goes well for Pat who will be having a heart valve replaced in the very near future. This is a big deal and I hope you will join in praying that all goes well for Pat.

If you have something you would like to see in Counterpoise, anything of interest to our members. Your homebrew projects, articles pertaining to local activities or your thoughts on amateur radio current events, send that content to [counterpoise@wa6bgs.us](mailto:counterpoise@wa6bgs.us). You are what makes the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, we wouldn't exist without you the membership. Join us at our meetings and activities and become a part of the club.

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## ARCEC Repeater Frequencies

2 Meter Repeater	220 MHZ Repeater	440 MHZ Repeater
TX 146.475	TX 222.480	TX 440.900
RX 147.420	RX 224.080	RX 445.900
Offset .945	Offset 1.6	Offset 5.00
PL 107.2	PL 107.2	PL 107.2



## Swap Meet Listings

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon has a Swap Meet listing page on our website and here in Counterpoise, Have something you want to buy, sell, or trade list it with us. See

<http://wa6bgs.us/swapmeetlegal.html> for more listings and posting guidelines. This is a free service to our members.

## Membership Badges

All members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon who might wish to obtain a membership badge can contact Dell Awards and place an order with them. They are our current preferred source for these badges, and have our logo and design on file and ready to create a custom badge for members. Current price is \$7.50 per badge and they have indicated that there is normally a 3 business day turnaround time. These are quality badges made by a long established company, so place yours on order soon. They can be reached at the below address and phone number, and be sure to mention you saw this blurb in the Counterpoise newsletter too.

**Dell Awards**  
**7949 Broadway**  
**Lemon Grove, CA 91945**  
**(619) 469-2100**  
**Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm**  
**Sat 10am-1pm**  
**Sun - Closed**

## Club Membership & Dues

Club dues and new memberships can now be paid online. The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon website [wa6bgs.us](http://wa6bgs.us) has been updated to accept membership dues, and new members. The link is at the top of the page, just follow the instructions on the Join / Renew page. Our website is a work in progress and there will be more good things to follow in the months ahead, so visit often.

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## The San Diego Morse Code Practice Group

Mark KB6PJU has been conducting a code practice group on the WA6BGS VHF repeater. The code practice Group meets at 7:00 PM Pacific time on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. If you want to learn Mores Code or hone your skills and improve your speed the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group is for you.

You can discuss the San Diego Morse Code Practice Group here;

<http://www.arrl.org/forum/topics/view/1536>

And here;

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/new-2-meter-repeater-cw-teaching-method-developed.492738/>

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## Our Tower Trailer Needs A New Home

**The current storage location for the club's antenna tower will not be available very soon. The club is looking for a volunteer willing to store the tower trailer. The new location must be secure, and 24 hour access is highly desired. If anyone wants to volunteer to store the trailer, or, has any suggestions on where to store the antenna trailer, please contact any officer or board member.**

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The **AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OF EL CAJON**<sup>Inc.</sup>  
**WA6BGS**

Post Office Box Fifty, El Cajon California 92022

Founded 1960 ~ Incorporated 1976

Please fill out this form and then see options at bottom for submitting to the club

Date of application: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cash    Check    Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:    Individual (\$20/year)    Family\* (\$35/year)

Membership Status:    New    Renewal    Returning Member

Call Sign    First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

If a previous member, what was your WAMO number?

ARRL Member:    Yes    No

License Class:    Technician    General    Extra    Other

Email Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Use another sheet of paper to add Family members and please include the following information:*

First Name, Last Name, Call Sign (if any), License Class, Wamo Number (if any), & Email Address.

**Submitting this form:**

To submit this form, you can mail it to:

**Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon  
P.O. Box 50  
El Cajon, CA 92022**

-OR-

Bring it to the next club meeting on the second Thursday of each month. You can find the date and location by getting online at [www.wa6bgs.us](http://www.wa6bgs.us) which is the club website. Check it out for the most current information regarding the club.

**Cash Payments - Get a receipt from the Club Treasurer. Please make all checks payable to AMATEUR RADIO CLUB of EL CAJON, Incorporated. Receipts for payments by check will be sent by email or regular mail by the Club Treasurer.**

**Members with an FCC Call Sign are full members with voting privileges. Members without an FCC Call Sign are Associate members without voting privileges.**

**YOUR DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE: Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon, Inc. Is a 501 C 7 Corporation. Donations are NOT tax deductible.**

**Email address and phone number are to allow club officers to contact members regarding club business and information of interest.**